

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims is intended to replace all prior versions of claims in the application and includes all claims now active in the application, along with the status of each. In this listing, insertions are underlined, as follows: inserted text. Deletions are struck through in bold type, as follows: ~~deleted text~~, or indicated with double square brackets in cases where strikethrough text is difficult to see, as follows: **[[4]]**.

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A method for dynamically configuring a satellite to communicate over a network comprising at least one earth station and at least one satellite in accordance with an open system interconnection (OSI) reference model, the method comprising:

transmitting an object from an earth station to a satellite, said object comprising data conforming to at least one protocol and said object further comprising executable code for implementing said protocol at said satellite;

receiving said object at said satellite;

extracting at least said executable code from said object at said satellite;

temporarily storing at least said executable code in memory at said satellite;

dynamically reconfiguring the satellite to support the OSI reference model;

and

executing said executable code for implementing at least one layer of the OSI reference model, including adapting said network layer for at least one of internet protocol and asynchronous transfer mode protocol.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one layer comprises a physical layer and a data link layer.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one layer comprises a network layer.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one layer comprises a transport layer.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said at least one layer comprises an application layer.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said step of executing said executable code includes at least one of the steps of data fusion and packet dropping.

21. (Canceled)